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International Convention on
the Elimination
of all Forms of
Racial Discrimination

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COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION
OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION
Fifty-fourth session
Geneva, 1-19 March 1999

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The fifty-fourth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination will be held at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 1 to 19 March 1999. The first meeting of the session will be convened at 10 a.m. on Monday, 1 March. The last meeting will be convened at 3 p.m. on Friday, 19 March.

2. This document contains the provisional agenda for the fifty-fourth session of the Committee, prepared by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 6 of the rules of procedure, together with annotations relating thereto.

3. The attention of States parties is drawn, in particular, to the tentative timetable for consideration of reports and further information submitted by States parties, for consideration of States parties whose reports are seriously overdue pursuant to the review procedure, and for consideration of States parties pursuant to early warning measures and urgent action procedures.

4. In accordance with rule 64 of the rules of procedure, the representatives of the States parties are invited to be present at the meetings of the Committee when their reports are examined.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda.

2. Organizational and other matters.

3. Prevention of racial discrimination, including early warning measures and urgent action procedures.

4. Consideration of reports, comments and information submitted by States parties under article 9 of the Convention.

5. Submission of reports by States parties under article 9, paragraph 1, of the Convention.

6. Action by the General Assembly at its fifty-third session:

   (a) Annual report submitted by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination under article 9, paragraph 2, of the Convention;

   (b) Effective implementation of international instruments on human rights.

7. Consideration of communications under article 14 of the Convention.

8. Consideration of copies of petitions, copies of reports and other information relating to Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories and to all other territories in which General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) applies, in conformity with article 15 of the Convention.

9. Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination; World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance.

ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda

Under rule 8 of the rules of procedure, the first item on the provisional agenda of any session shall be the adoption of the agenda. In accordance with rule 9, the Committee may revise the agenda during a session and may, as appropriate, add, defer or delete items.

2. Organizational and other matters

Under this item, the Committee will consider its programme of work for the fifty-fourth session. It will also undertake a general debate on issues of interest to the Committee.

3. Prevention of racial discrimination, including early warning measures and urgent action procedures

The Committee decided at its forty-fifth session to establish this as one of its regular and principal agenda items. Within the framework of its efforts to prevent racial discrimination, the Committee may decide to take early warning measures aimed at preventing existing problems from escalating into conflicts; or it may decide to initiate urgent action procedures aimed at responding to problems requiring immediate attention to prevent or limit the scale or number of serious violations of the Convention. The Committee may also take action or further action regarding States parties already considered under this item.

Pursuant to decisions taken at its fifty-third session, the Committee has scheduled, at its fifty-fourth session, consideration of the situation in the following States parties: Australia, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, the Sudan and Yugoslavia. The Committee may, at its discretion, schedule the consideration of other States parties at short notice.

In pursuance of established practice, the Secretary-General has informed the States parties concerned of the tentative dates on which they are scheduled for consideration by the Committee. The scheduling of the Committee's consideration of States parties under this item is set forth in the timetable below.

4. Consideration of reports, comments and information submitted by States parties under article 9 of the Convention

At its fifty-fourth session, the Committee will consider reports received from the following States parties: Austria, Costa Rica, Finland, Italy, Lesotho, Mongolia, Peru, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Syrian Arab Republic and Kuwait.

Pursuant to a decision taken at its fifty-third session, the Committee has scheduled, at its fifty-fourth session, a review of the implementation of the Convention in one State party, Bangladesh, that has previously submitted reports but whose periodic reports are seriously overdue.

In addition, the Committee has scheduled a review of the implementation of the Convention in a number of States parties whose initial reports are seriously overdue. Those States parties are: Bahrain, Congo and Slovenia.

In pursuance of established practice and in conformity with rule 64 of the rules of procedure, the Secretary-General has informed the States parties concerned of the tentative dates on which their respective reports are scheduled for consideration by the Committee. The scheduling of the Committee's consideration of reports submitted and review of the implementation of the Convention in the States parties whose reports are seriously overdue is set forth in the timetable below.

5. Submission of reports by States parties under article 9, paragraph 1, of the Convention

At its fifty-fourth session, the Committee will have before it a note by the Secretary-General concerning the status of submission of reports by States parties in accordance with article 9 of the Convention (CERD/C/345). Part A of that document indicates reports received from States parties and pending consideration by the Committee. Part B of the document contains information relating to overdue reports.

6. Action by the General Assembly at its fifty-third session on the annual report submitted by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination under article 9, paragraph 2, of the Convention

Following a request made by the Committee at its seventh session in 1973, this item is included yearly on the Committee's provisional agenda.

(a) Annual report submitted by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination under article 9, paragraph 2, of the Convention

Pursuant to article 9, paragraph 2, of the Convention, the annual report of the Committee, covering its activities during the fifty-second and fifty-third sessions, was submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session. The Committee will have before it the report and relevant summary records of the Third Committee, and relevant General Assembly resolutions.

(b) Effective implementation of international instruments on human rights

During the fifty-third session of the General Assembly, this item was considered by the Third Committee. The Committee will have before it the following documents:

(i) Note of the Secretary-General transmitting to the General Assembly the report of the tenth meeting of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies (A/53/432);

(ii) Relevant summary records;

(iii) Relevant General Assembly resolutions.

7. Consideration of communications under article 14 of the Convention

In accordance with the provisions of chapter XVIII of its rules of procedure, the Committee will consider under this item communications which are or appear to be submitted to it under article 14 of the Convention.

In accordance with rule 88 of the rules of procedure, the meetings of the Committee during which communications under article 14 of the Convention are examined shall be closed.

8. Consideration of copies of petitions, copies of reports and other information relating to Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories and to all other territories in which General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) applies, in conformity with article 15 of the Convention

Under this item, the Committee will have before it a note by the Secretary-General (CERD/C/346) concerning article 15 of the Convention and listing, as appropriate, copies of petitions, reports and working papers relating to the Trusteeship Council and the Special Committee on the Situation with Regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

9. Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination; World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance

At its 695th meeting (thirtieth session) in August 1984, the Committee decided to keep this item on its agenda and requested the Secretary-General to keep it informed of the relevant activities which would be undertaken in accordance with the Programme of Action for the Second Decade. This practice was maintained with the subsequent adoption of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade.

The Committee discussed the World Conference at its 1302nd and 1303rd meetings (fifty-third session) in August 1998, and agreed at its 1303rd meeting to further discuss its potential contribution to the preparations for the World Conference at its next session.

Tentative timetable for consideration of reports, comments and further information submitted by States parties, for consideration of States parties whose reports are seriously overdue pursuant to the review procedure, and for consideration of States parties pursuant to early warning measures and urgent action procedures

The following timetable has been drawn up by the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Chairman, taking into account the relevant decisions taken by the Committee at its fifty-third session.

Monday, 1 March 1999 (1304th and 1305th meetings)

General debate on issues of interest to the Committee	
Austria 1/ (Country Rapporteur: Mr. Nobel)	Eleventh, twelfth and thirteenth periodic reports, due in 1993, 1995 and 1997, submitted in one document (CERD/C/319/Add.5)

Tuesday, 2 March 1999 (1306th and 1307th meetings)

Austria	(continued)
Bahrain 2/ (Country Rapporteur: Mr. van Boven)	Initial, second, third and fourth periodic reports, due in 1991, 1993, 1995 and 1997
Republic of Korea 1/ (Country Rapporteur: Mr. van Boven)	Ninth and tenth periodic reports, due in 1996 and 1998, submitted in one document (CERD/C/333/Add.1)

Wednesday, 3 March 1999 (1308th and 1309th meetings)

Republic of Korea	(continued)
Bangladesh 2/ (Country Rapporteur: Mr. Banton)	Fifth and sixth periodic reports, due in 1988 and 1990, submitted in one document, considered at the 942nd and 943rd meetings in 1992
Finland 1/ (Country Rapporteur: Mr. Sherifis)	Thirteenth and fourteenth periodic reports, due in 1995 and 1997, submitted in one document (CERD/C/320/Add.2)

Thursday, 4 March 1999 (1310th and 1311th meetings)

Finland	(continued)

Congo 2/ (Country Rapporteur: Mrs. Sadiq Ali)	Initial, second, third, fourth and fifth periodic reports, due in 1989, 1991, 1993, 1995 and 1997
Portugal 1/ (Country Rapporteur: Mr. Garvalov)	Fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth periodic reports, due in 1991, 1993, 1995 and 1997, submitted in one document (CERD/C/314/Add.1)

Friday, 5 March 1999 (1312th and 1313th meetings)

Portugal	(continued)
Slovenia 2/ (Country Rapporteur: Mr. Rechetov)	Initial, second and third periodic reports, due in 1993, 1995 and 1997
Democratic Republic of the Congo 3/ (Country Rapporteur: Mr. Valencia Rodriguez)	Tenth periodic report (CERD/C/278/Add.1), considered at the 1171st to 1173rd meetings in 1996, and further considered at the 1240th meeting in 1997, the 1271st meeting in 1998, and the 1297th meeting in 1998
Rwanda 3/ (Country Rapporteur: Mr. van Boven)	Seventh periodic report (CERD/C/169/Add.1) considered at the 839th meeting in 1989 and further considered at the 1027th and 1045th meetings in 1994, the 1153rd meeting in 1996, the 1212th meeting in 1997, the 1274th meeting in 1998, and the 1299th meeting in 1998
Sudan 3/ (Country Rapporteur: Ms. McDougall)	Fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth periodic reports (CERD/C/222/Add.1), considered at the 968th, 970th and 971st meetings in 1993, and additional information (CERD/C/222/Add.2), considered at the 1052nd and 1053rd meetings in 1994

Monday, 8 March 1999 (1314th and 1315th meetings)

Yugoslavia 3/ (Country Rapporteur: Mr. Nobel)	Thirteenth and fourteenth periodic reports (CERD/C/299/Add.17), considered at the 1260th, 1261st and 1262nd meeting in 1998 and further considered at the 1296th meeting in 1998
Italy 1/ (Country Rapporteur: Mr. Diaconu)	Tenth and eleventh periodic reports, due in 1995 and 1997, submitted in one document (CERD/C/317/Add.1)

Tuesday, 9 March 1999 (1316th and 1317th meetings)

Italy	(continued)
Peru 1/ (Country Rapporteur: Mr. de Gouttes)	Twelfth and thirteenth periodic reports, due in 1994 and 1996, submitted in one document (CERD/C/298/Add.5)

Wednesday, 10 March 1999 (1318th and 1319th meetings)

Peru	(continued)
Syrian Arab Republic 1/ (Country Rapporteur: Mr. Agha Shahi)	Twelfth, thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth periodic reports, due in 1992, 1994, 1996 and 1998, submitted in one document (CERD/C/338/Add.1/Rev.1)

Thursday, 11 March 1999 (1320th and 1321st meetings)

Syrian Arab Republic	(continued)
Czech Republic 1/ (Country Rapporteur: Mr. Diaconu)	Additional information in response to Decision 2 (53), adopted on 11 August 1998 (CERD/C/348)
Costa Rica 1/ (Country Rapporteur: Mr. Yutzis)	Twelfth, thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth periodic reports due in 1992, 1994, 1996 and 1998, submitted in one document (CERD/C/338/Add.4)

Friday, 12 March 1999 (1322nd and 1323rd meetings)

Costa Rica	(continued)
Australia 1/ (Country Rapporteur: Ms. McDougall)	Additional information in response to Decision 1 (53), adopted on 11 August 1998 (CERD/C/347)
Kuwait 1/ (Country rapporteur: Mr. Yutzis)	Thirteenth and fourteenth periodic reports due in 1994 and 1996, submitted in one document (CERD/C/299/Add.16 and CERD/C/299/Add.16/Corr.1)

Monday, 15 March 1999 (1324th and 1325th meetings)

Kuwait	(continued)
Mongolia 1/ (Country Rapporteur:	Eleventh, twelfth, thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth periodic reports, due in

Mrs. Zou)	1990, 1992, 1994, 1996 and 1998, submitted in one document (CERD/C/338/Add.3)

Tuesday, 16 March 1999 (1326th and 1327th meetings)

Mongolia	(continued)
Lesotho 1/ (Country Rapporteur: Mrs. Sadiq Ali)	Seventh, eighth, ninth, tenth, eleventh, twelfth, thirteenth and fourteenth periodic reports due in 1984, 1986, 1988, 1990, 1992, 1994, 1996 and 1998, submitted in one document (CERD/C/337/Add.1)

Wednesday, 17 March 1999 (1328th and 1329th meetings)

Lesotho	(continued)

Notes

1/ Periodic report.

2/ Review procedure (for States parties whose reports are seriously overdue).

3/ Early warning measures and urgent action procedures.